COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 2, No. 24 March 23, 1966

Congressional Vote Cited As 'Visible Confidence' in DOD

Congress' overwhelming vote which passed the $4.8 billion supplemental defense authorization bill was termed by President Johnson as, "visible confidence in our modern Defense Department and the civilian and the military who direct the destinies of that department."

Mr. Johnson signed the bill March 15, stating, "...this will help to meet the military needs that we have in Vietnam."

The $4.8 billion authorization is part of a $13 billion supplemental requested by DOD in January to meet the needs of Vietnam operations during FY66.

President Johnson said, "How sad it is that such great sums must be spent for the bombs and the planes and the gun powders of war. How joyous it would be if these great resources could be put, instead, to the service of peace."

At the bill's signing President Johnson explained what the United States struggle in Vietnam really means: "Our purpose is to demonstrate to the remaining advocates of violence that there is more human profit to be had from peace than there is from war."

The President said his greatest wish is to someday sign another bill, one that is designed to bring progress and fulfillment to a Southeast Asia which is at peace with itself and also at peace with the rest of the world.

Deputy SecDef Vance Slated for RVN Visit

Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance is scheduled to depart the United States March 24 to visit U.S. and allied military forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

He is also scheduled to visit Thailand and Guam and will meet with Adm. U.S.G. Sharp, USN, in Honolulu. Secretary Vance is slated to return to the U.S. April 3.

He will be accompanied by Paul R. Ignatius, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics); Phil G. Goulding, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs); and Col. Abbott C. Greenleaf, USAF, Military Assistant.

SIGNING SOUVENIR—President Johnson presents a pen used to sign a bill calling for $4.8 billion more to support the war effort in Vietnam to Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, USA, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Between them are Adm. David L. McDonald, CNO (left) and Mr. William Stinson, a White House aide.

Military Raise Backed If CS Bill is Enacted

A pay raise for members of the armed forces has received backing of U.S. officials in the event President Johnson's proposed increase for federal employees is enacted.

The President has recommended to Congress a pay raise for civil service personnel, ranging from 1 to 4½ percent, to become effective Jan. 1, 1967.

Officials believe a military pay raise would be appropriate for the same amount should Congress enact a civilian increase.

Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, D.-S.C., introduced a bill March 8 to insure equitable pay adjustments during 1966 for uniformed services personnel.

Effective date of a military increase, if enacted, would be the first day of the month preceding the month in which the increase for federal employees becomes effective.

Committee hearings are underway on the federal employees pay proposal, and it is hoped that the bill can be presented to the House of Representatives by Easter.

Washington Memos

BILL H.R. 12672 TO amend title 37, U.S. Code, states that in event the President, during calendar year 1966 approves the enactment of legislation authorizing an increase for federal employees, "a correspondent and equivalent per centum increase will automatically become effective in the monthly basic pays provided members of the uniformed services."

SUCH A PAY raise, the bill proposed by Rep. L. Mendel Rivers, D.-S.C., notes, will be computed by applying a flat percentage increase equivalent to the total average increase provided in the compensation schedule for Classification Act employees.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE has released casualty figures showing 2,559 U.S. military personnel killed in hostile action in the RVN from Jan. 1, 1961 through March 12, 1966. In addition, 615 deaths from other causes were recorded.

U.S. OFFICIALS ARE encouraged with the progress being made in the Vietnam war, but point out it will be a long and hard struggle. United States military forces, as well as allied forces, are operating in magnificent fashion, they said.

IN A RELATED area, U.S. officials are pleased with the way U.S. Army and Air Force units are operating in Vietnam. Army's request for air support in certain areas has been met within 2-10 minutes.

AIR FORCE'S ANNUAL central flight status selection board is scheduled to convene May 9 to screen rated pilots and navigators-observers not performing aircrew duties for retention or suspension from flying status. Officials said only those who possess "unsatisfactory or obviously marginal rated potential" will be suspended. It was noted, however, few officials are likely to lose their flying rating.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON SENT a joint resolution to Congress March 10, establishing American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Commission, composed of members of Congress, Executive Branch and distinguished Americans appointed by President, will provide assistance to state, local and private groups in commemorations, increase knowledge of Revolution, plan national celebrations and recall to America and world the significance of the Revolution.

TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (TAC) and Strategic Air Command (SAC) celebrated their 20th anniversaries March 21. TAC produces and maintains combat ready forces capable of conducting long-range combat missions on short notice. SAC is America's long-range nuclear strike force, combining ballistics missiles and combat aircraft to accomplish mission.

HIGH SPEED EQUIPMENT for field map-making is one of several developments announced by the Army Map Service. The van-mounted electrostatic printer can make up to 2,000 five-color topographic maps every hour.

SAFEST SUPPLY CENTER in the Navy is claim of Long Beach (Calif.) NSC. Latest report shows center personnel worked 3,094,635 manhours without a lost time accident. The report covers 21 months of operation since the center became a separate command April 1, 1964. Center complement is approximately 800 military and civilian personnel.

REGULAR JUMPS ONTO a "punji stake" are made by the man who developed stainless steel jungle boot soles for use in RVN. Mr. Les L' Hollier, Army's Natick Laboratories, places the steel soles in his own shoes and jumps from a desk onto a nail studded board. The tests have failed to leave any mark on the soles of Mr. L' Hollier's feet.

AN ADDED PLUS to investing in Series H U.S. Savings Bonds is that interest earned is not subject to state or local income, personal property or intangible taxes.

ARMY HAS SUSPENDED its requirement to terminate proficiency pay of students undergoing officer candidate training. They may continue receiving pro pay while in student status. Previously, the eligibility was withdrawn when a person departed the assigned unit for entry into training. New policy is now in effect and will continue through at least FY67.

ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF Navy's Poseidon missile is one example of continued R&D supporting the nation's strategic retaliatory and defensive forces. Others cited by DR&E Director Dr. John S. Foster Jr. are initial development of the FB-111 and the SRAM air-to-ground missile. The Nike-X ballistic missile defense system, he said, will be pursued at its highest funding level to date.

SOME ITEMS RECENTLY sent to RVN from R&D include the M-79 40mm grenade launcher, survival kits, jungle boots and air-to-ground weapons such as the 7.62mm machine gun with a 6,000 rounds-per-minute rate of fire.

ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT IS underway on several items slated for RVN in next fiscal year. They include helicopter-transportable armored combat and logistics vehicles, the OV-10 counterinsurgency aircraft and a modified A-7 attack aircraft for the Air Force.

ARMY INFO OFFICERS are reminded to provide publications officers with distribution requirements for such periodicals as Commanders Digest, Army Information Digest, and the Army Personnel Letter. March 31 is deadline for submitted DA Form 12-4 to APC, Baltimore, as stated in DA Circular 310-1.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by the Armed Forces News Bureau, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

USAF Role in Close Air Support Cited by Sec. Brown

The A-1E propellor-driven aircraft has been praised for its close support performance by Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown and Capt. Richard G. Head, USAF, 27, a pilot who recently returned to the U.S. after flying 325 combat missions in Vietnam.

Capt. Head told newsmen that the Skyraider is the "greatest close air support aircraft" that he knows and that communications of the A-1E are superb and a necessity in close support missions.

Secretary Brown, in a speech at the Executive's Club of Chicago, gave an example of the Skyraider's capabilities, explaining that a pilot shot a sniper out of a tree located between friendly forces no more than 40 yards apart.

Noting that timely air support can save the day, Secretary Brown said, "The speed with which we can respond to Army requests for close air support is of great interest to the Air Force as well as to the ground forces."

He believes U.S. equipment for such support is the best in the world, and "we intend to keep it that way."

As for advanced weapons systems for close support, the Secretary said this year the Air Force is procuring the A-7 and Light Armed Reconnaissance Aircraft.

24-Month Guarantee After RVN Tour Out

Army personnel completing an RVN tour are no longer guaranteed 24 months before returning to the Republic, although a low return priority has been established.

RVN returnees can only be assigned to a subsequent RVN tour by Department of the Army, insuring they receive maximum possible time in CONUS or a long tour area.

The nine-month CONUS guarantee for other short tour and unaccompanied long tour returnees has also been eliminated. Again, priority is low and short tour assignment can only be made by DA.

Short tours, including RVN, will be filled first by volunteers. Some 29,000 enlisted personnel volunteered for RVN during July 1, 1964-Feb. 28, 1966. More than 21,000 met specific requirements and were accepted.

Assignment to short tours will be made in the following precedence: those longest in CONUS; single and accompanied personnel returning from a long tour; single and accompanied serving in a long tour area (may be reassigned directly); short tour and unaccompanied long tour returnees; and RVN returnees.

B-52s Getting Increased Bomb Load Capability

Air Force Logistics Command's San Antonio Air Materiel Area, Kelly AFB, Tex., has begun a modification program to increase bomb load capabilities of B-52 Stratofortress bombers.

Using a bomb bay system developed by Boeing Co., maintenance technicians are modifying the aircraft to carry up to 84 500-pound or 42 750-pound bombs. The aircraft could carry only 27 previously.

An additional 24 bombs can be carried in modified racks under the wings. Modification of the racks simplified loading and reduced the weight of pylons, which increases the B-52's range.

The modified B-52s can transport a total bomb load of 60,000 pounds, an increase of 21,750 pounds, and convert quickly from non-nuclear to nuclear capabilities. Cost of the modification is about $23 million.

Blood Donors Praised; Stress Need for More

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara praised college students and other Americans who have donated blood for servicemen in the Republic of Vietnam and stressed the need for more donations.

He said the Red Cross has collected more than 56,000 units of whole blood, 39,000 units coming from college students, calling it an "outstanding record."

The Secretary added that a vital need still exists for the blood components gamma globulin and serum albumin. The Red Cross has been breaking the whole blood down to those components.

DOD has asked for at least 80,000 units by June 30. The increased number of servicemen in the RVN has reduced the existing stockpile.

Military Response Praised In Pacific Gemini 8 Recovery

Military response in recovering Gemini 8 Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Maj. David R. Scott has received praise from Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance.

They did a "superb job," Secretary Vance said when commenting on the military support given the Gemini 8 project.

An Air Force Aerospace Rescue and Recovery HC-54 from Naha Air Base, Okinawa, carried three pararescuemen to the landing site.

The pararescuemen were: Air Force SSgt. L. Huyett, A1C E. N. Neal and A2C G. Moore. They were in the water and had flotation gear attached to the Gemini 8 space capsule 20 minutes after it landed in the Pacific Ocean, 500 miles east of Okinawa.

Command Changes In RVN Announced

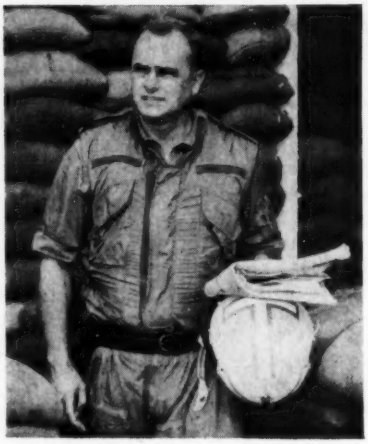
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Commander, U.S. Forces Vietnam, has redesignated Maj. Gen. Stanley Larsen's Field Force Vietnam (FFORCE V) Headquarters and reassigned Maj. Gen. Jonathan Seaman and Brig. Gen. William Depuy.

The FFORCE V command became I Field Force Vietnam March 15. Gen. Larsen continues as Commanding General. Gen. Seaman, formerly Commander, 1st Infantry Div., assumed command of a new headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam, at Bien Hoa. Gen. Depuy, a major general selectee, assumed command of the 1st Infantry Div. He was formerly Gen. Westmoreland's assistant chief of staff for operations.

The new Force One is a tactical headquarters with operational control of all U.S. ground forces in the II Corps tactical zone. The new Force Two fulfills a similar role in the III Corps tactical zone.

So. Korean Firm Hired For Stevedoring in RVN

A South Korean transportation firm has been contracted by U.S. Army's 1st Logistical Command, RVN, to assume 80 percent of American military stevedoring activity at Qui Nhon. Two $1 million contracts were given to Han Jin Transportation Co., Seoul, Korea.



AF SPOKESMAN — Maj. John A. Keeler, USAF, fighter pilot, provides newsman with first-hand air operation information on the conflict in RVN at daily press conferences conducted by the U.S. Mission there.

Triangulation Teams Checking Distances

American satellite triangulation teams in Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Scotland and Denmark are engaged in a program to increase knowledge of the size and shape of the earth.

The satellite triangulation program, conducted by Environmental Science Services Administration's Coast and Geodetic Survey cooperating with Denmark, Norway, England and Canada, will help determine more precisely distances between North America and Europe.

Saigon Army Command Expands Control Area

Army's 1st Logistical Command, Saigon, will assume administrative control of 10 functions April 1. Functions assumed by 1st Logistical Command include: all hospitals, dispensaries, motor transportation, utilities, billets, commissary, clubs and messes, and public work contract administration in Saigon area.

In addition all troop education and special service activities in II, III and IV Corps areas will be put under 1st Logistical Command. Troop education plans include establishment of University of Maryland extension courses.

OAO Spacecraft Set For March 24 Launch

Launching of this country's most advanced unmanned spacecraft is scheduled from Cape Kennedy, Fla., March 24.

It will be the first in a series of four Orbiting Astronomical Observatories (OAO), designed to give astronomers their first sustained look into the universe from above the obscuring and distorting effects of the Earth's atmosphere.

The 3,900-pound observatory will be the heaviest spacecraft ever carried by the Atlas-Agena launch vehicle, according to NASA.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Brig. Gen. Joseph O. Wood, USMC, former CG, MCSA, Philadelphia, named Senior Member, UN Command, Military Armistice Committee, Korea. **Brig. Gen. Francis W. Nye, USAF,** CofS, Hq., 15thAF, SAC, March AFB, Calif., April 1 transfer to Hq., 18th Strategic Aerospace Div., SAC, Fairchild AFB, Wash. **Maj. Gen. John T. Honeycutt, USA,** named Commander, Defense Atomic Support Agency Field Command, Sandia Base, Albuquerque, N. Mex., and Deputy Director, DASA, succeeding **RAdm. Ralph C. Johnson, USN. Maj. Gen. George S. Bowman Jr., USMC,** CG, 2ndMAW, Cherry Point, N.C., to become Deputy Commander, FMFLant in May. **Brig. Gen. Michael P. Ryan, USMC,** Asst. CofS, G-2, HQMC, to command Ninth Marine Amphibious Brigade in April.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Habag Corporation, New York, N. Y.: $1,307,561 fixed-price contract for 12,940,000 pounds of 22-gauge steel sheets. **(DSA)**

Bell Helicopter Company, Fort Worth, Tex.: $2,691,761 fixed-price order for transmissions for UH-1 helicopters. **(Army)**

Collins Radio Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa: $8,812,369 letter contract for components for the AN/ARC-51 series of radio sets. **(Navy)**

Bendix Corporation, Teterboro, N. J.: $3,404,125 increment to an existing contract for production of electronic equipment for C-141 aircraft. **(Air Force)**